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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,795	11/26/2003	Yang Hwan No	K-0581	4137
34610	7590	01/08/2007	EXAMINER	
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP P.O. BOX 221200 CHANTILLY, VA 20153			RIGGLEMAN, JASON PAUL	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1746		
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/08/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/721,795	NO ET AL.
	Examiner Jason P. Riggleman	Art Unit 1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II (claims 5-14) in the reply filed on 12/06/2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the subject matter of each of the inventions are sufficiently related such that a search and examination of Groups I-II would not pose a serious burden to the examiner. This is not found persuasive because in accordance with MPEP §803: "For purposes of the initial requirement, a serious burden on the examiner may be *prima facie* shown by appropriate explanation of separate classification, or separate status in the art, or a different field of search as defined in MPEP § 808.02. That *prima facie* showing may be rebutted by appropriate showings or evidence by the applicant." In the instant case, the Examiner has provided a *prima facie* showing of separate classification and different field of search as shown in the Restriction Requirement. Applicant's allegations of coextensive search and no "serious burden" include no appropriate showings or evidence and, therefore, are not persuasive. Accordingly, the restriction is considered proper in accordance with MPEP §803.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

2. Figures 1-2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled

"Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

In the instant application, the term "disclosed" is used to describe the invention.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 8-9 and 11-12 are objected to because of the following informalities: "to slide to be inserted therein for coupling", in claims 8-9, and "inserted as long as a predetermined distance is unable to move ahead", in claims 11-12, are awkwardly written claim language. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1746

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

6. Claims 5-7, 9, and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable by the admitted state of the art, ASA, as disclosed by the applicant.
7. The ASA teaches a general washing machine with a cabinet 2 having a tub 4 and drum 6 provided within; a drum 6 rotatably provided in the tub 4; and a control panel 7 coupled to the cabinet 2 to have a control unit inside, Fig. 1, (paragraphs [0005] and [0008]). A noise filter 20 is loaded in a filter case 22 to prevent control signals carried on the wires from interfering and a filter case coupling assembly, Fig. 2, sliding (22a) on the cabinet 2 and coupling the filter case 22 to the cabinet 2. The filter case 22 is coupled to a top plate 2a forming a topside of the cabinet 2, Fig. 2. The filter case 22 is coupled to an upper surface of the top plate 2a, Fig. 2. The filter case coupling assembly has a coupling protrusion 22a protruding in a lateral direction for lower edges of a side of the filter case 22 and a guide rail 2h formed at the top plate 2a to guide the coupling protrusion 22a to slidably insert therein for coupling. The front side of the guide rail 2h is blocked (groove end) so that the coupling protrusion 22a inserted as long as a predetermined distance is unable to move ahead, Fig. 2. The control panel is coupled to rear parts (the vertical plate coupling the control panel to the cabinet cover 3) of the upper surface of the top plate 2a, Fig. 1 (control panel is the box with corrugated wiring coming out the rear).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 8, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted state of the art, ASA, as disclosed by the applicant, as applied to claims 5-7.

10. In regards to claims 8 and 11, the ASA does not teach a pair of coupling protrusions with a pair of guide rails; however, it has been held that duplication of parts would have been obvious (*In re Harza* 124 USPQ 378). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the ASA to create a more securely attached filter case coupling to the cabinet.

In regards to claim 14, the ASA does not teach a filter case provided under the control panel; however, it has been held that an obvious choice is design is unpatentable (*In re Kuhle* 188 USPQ 7). It is obvious to have the filter case located in close proximity to the wires of the control panel (preferably beneath it in a top-mounted control panel) to avoid obstructing access by the user. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the ASA to create a washing machine with a filter case coupled to the wiring of the control panel in an unobstructed manner.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Onizuka et al. (US Patent No. 6147928) teaches a noise filter with attachment means to a cabinet.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Riggleman whose telephone number is 571-272-5935. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason P Riddleman
Examiner
Art Unit 1746

JPR



MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER